Judy Ayyad

SPE545

Software Evaluation

***Overview of Wiggleworks Software:*** [***http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/wiggleworks/index.htm***](http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/wiggleworks/index.htm)

The WiggleWorks software is a scaffold system that can be implemented into any classroom grades K-3rd grade. It can be used for general education, students with special needs or any student in between. As the website states, it integrates multimedia tools by offering a curriculum with text, graphics, speech, sounds and other customizable features.

For example, Students with special needs that cannot move a mouse can use the scanner feature to move buttons on the screen. Text is highlighted word-by-word or line-by-line depending on preference. The rate of reading speed in conjunction with highlighted text can also be adjusted.

Wiggleworks is a research-based learning system. The individualized curriculum helps each student to learn the same material whether they have a disability or not(*Special Education Report*, 2000). *Reading Today* calls WiggleWorks “State of the art” (October/November 1995). The WiggleWorks website offers validation for improved Iowa Basic Skills scores based on a one-year random study of 1st grade students.

*The WiggleWorks software for the individual student includes the following sections:*

* ***Read-aloud***-an entire story can be displayed and read aloud with music, sound and illustration.
* ***Read***-read alone feature but students are able to hear unfamiliar words read by a narrator. It also has the ability to record the students voice so they can hear themselves read and a feature that helps to create personal word lists for future reference.
* ***Write***-Children can write about the book integrating graphics, colors (with paint feature) and text.
* ***My book-***here students can customize their own books and listen to what they wrote.
* ***Magnet board-*** phonics feature with colorful letters students can manipulate around the board. It uses letter groupings so students can scan and formulate their own word choices to save them for future recall.

*For special needs students:*

Struggling readers can learn with individualized, teacher guided reading strategies. Students can have text read to them, or read it themselves.

Students with physical or cognitive challenges can also utilize curriculum that is customized for them. Features include:

* Options for text size, background color, recorded sound and graphics
* On-screen keyboard
* Talking buttons
* Single-switch scanning
* Read-aloud options
* Reading, writing and bookmaking

In addition to a Spanish version of WiggleWorks, English Language Learners using the English version can benefit by hearing text repeated as frequently as necessary. New word repetition and words related to pictures also helps with new word memory.

WiggleWorks is an interactive software program that “reinforces print concepts in multiple forms so students can internalize those concepts.” [***http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/wiggleworks/index.htm***](http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/wiggleworks/index.htm)

WiggleWorks offers a universally designed criteria offering multiple options for expression, control and engagement.

**The three versions of WiggleWorks are:**

1. *WiggleWorks Classic*: This version contains leveled books for the classroom library, interactive books on the software including audio recordings and teaching materials.
2. *WiggleWorks Espanol*: This version contains the same as the classic but offers books by Spanish authors.
3. *Wiggleworks Guided Reading Edition*: This contains similar materials as the classic version. This software is specifically designed for the guided reading classroom. The difference in instruction is the teacher and the computer guide the student through each book to promote independent reading strategies. (In guided reading, teachers define the purpose of assigned readings, help students read text and incorporate and encourage individual reading strategies.)

Each version includes teaching materials such as:

* assessment guide and tools
* leveled books
* classroom management tools
* teaching plans (Spanish version has English/Spanish lesson plans)
* user/reference guide
* technical support
* staff development video

The website offers a short, free demonstration of its software for the classic and guided reading version only. Free demos discs are available to teachers.

WiggleWorks is currently distributing their ***new*** version of interactive software. It offers versions for PreK -1st grade and 2nd-3rd grade in addition to the PreK-3rd grade version. It now offers more lesson plans, books and can maintain a capacity of 300 users. The price is currently 60% off (between $2,300 and $4,000)